



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Surface Warfare Officers School Day**

**WHEREAS**, the Surface Warfare Officers School was originally established as the U.S. Naval Destroyer School; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Naval Destroyer School was commissioned on July 1, 1961 to provide the critical foundation in professional education and training for officers in the Surface Navy; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Naval Destroyer School was first envisioned by Admiral Arleigh Burke in the years after World War II and brought to fruition under the leadership of Admiral Charles Weakley in order to improve combat readiness and tactical knowledge for junior Naval officers on all ships; and

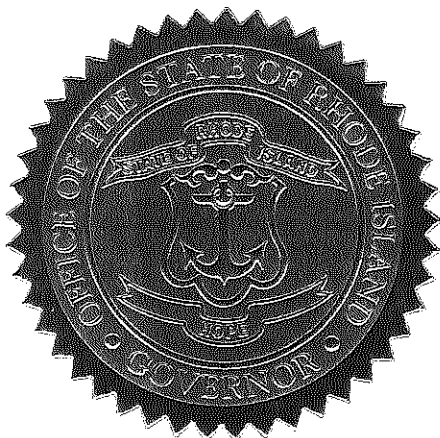
**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Naval Destroyer School was rededicated and named the Surface Warfare Officers School on September 14, 1970 with expanded curriculum for all Surface Warfare Officers from the most junior Ensign to senior Commanding Officers; and


**WHEREAS**, the Surface Warfare Officers School has been instrumental in meeting requirements for the U.S. Navy, over the past fifty years as it has provided basic training for over 50,000 Naval Officers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surface Warfare Officers School is a critical tool in promoting foreign naval partnerships, as 770 international Naval officers have received training since 1982, and this year it is projected that 89 students from 29 countries will enroll, the most ever in the Surface Warfare Officers School history; and

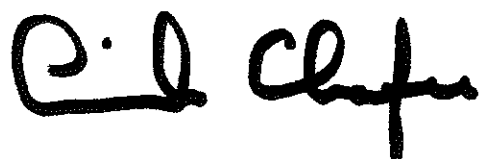
**WHEREAS**, Surface Warfare traditions have been a part of Rhode Island over many generations, it is fitting that the Surface Warfare Officers School share its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary spirit with the residents of Aquidneck Island and the State of Rhode Island, and the Surface Warfare Officers School will celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the next year from July 1, 2011 until June 31, 2012; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim July 1, 2011 Surface Warfare Officers School Day in Rhode Island and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of this day.



  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011



Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor